

Chair Pam Marsh and Committee Members  
House Committee on Energy and Environment

**RE: HB 2495 (Toxic Free Kids Act)**

Good afternoon Chair Pam Marsh and Committee Members:

My name is Grecia Salinas-Molina. I am a first-generation Chicana college student at Portland State University. I am currently a practicum fellow with Hacienda CDC, an affordable housing company that serves low-income residents. In my work with Hacienda CDC, I help residents adopt green cleaning to reduce toxic chemicals in their homes. I am speaking today to bring more awareness to the importance of toxics reductions in consumer products and the Toxic-Free Kids Act. While I am fairly new at learning about the effects chemicals can have on our body, I have always been aware that hazards are in products that we buy.

I am the oldest of five siblings. They are exposed to toxic chemicals every day without even realizing it. My family is low-income, so my mother does the best with what she can. It is not fair that my mother has to choose between affordable products or products that she cannot afford. My mother is not alone in this. There are many people out there who are only able to buy what they can afford. Most of these products have toxins that may possibly cause long-term health effects. And I support HB 2495 because it would expand the existing protections of the 2015 Toxic Free Kids Act to ensure safer kids products for my siblings.

It is frightening to know that children's clothing may contain toxins such as dyes and per-fluoro-chemicals. Exposure to these chemicals can cause cancers of the skin, liver, mouth, lungs, and breast. And children are at risk for various cancers before they are even able to walk.

My siblings and other young children do not have a voice to advocate for themselves just yet. But they have me, and other people advocating for their future. We should be investing in our children because they are the future. Companies are profiting off of individuals who do not know what they are bringing into their homes. And HB 2495 would require companies to report toxic chemicals using a toy's brand name and product model, which will be information that my family can use when making buying decisions. Oregon is taking a further step in the right direction when it comes to holding companies accountable. I urge this committee to support HB 2495.

Thank you.

Grecia Salinas-Molina  
Portland State University, Class of 2021  
Portland, Oregon